

## ACEC-NC Transportation Committee Meeting

Recorded By: Will Letchworth, PE and Christine Goins, PE, CCM  
Meeting Date: November 13, 2023 at 3:00 PM  
Meeting Location: NC Rural Center

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks, Allen Pope, PE
2. Meeting Sponsor Remarks, Schnabel
3. Legislative Update, Jim Smith
  - a. State Update
    - i. General Assembly currently on break (not dismissed), ACEC is being asked to sponsor certain bills, will evaluate each
    - ii. Transportation-related legislation included in budget
      1. \$90/year fee for plug-in hybrid vehicles
      2. Change in EV fee from \$140 to \$190
      3. Rideshare fee – enacts new transportation commerce tax of 1.5% of exclusive rideshare services (Uber, Lyft, etc.) and 1% on shared rideshare services
    - iii. Great Trail initiative - \$25M this year and next
    - iv. \$2B allocated for water/wastewater and other infrastructure
    - v. Update by David Ferrell of what was included on budget bill that affect engineering community is on website
    - vi. Redistricting
      1. Current makeup of congressional delegation is split evenly D-R; at federal level, new breakdown will change to 10R and 4D rather than current 7R-7D. Jeff Jackson (Charlotte) will be affected by this and is now running for Attorney General. Democrats plan to challenge these in courts. Maps affect state legislature; they've been re-drawn to favor Republicans
      2. ACEC is redoing advocacy page on website to be more interactive on bills that ACEC is tracking and links to bills. There will also be a link where visitors can directly comment on bills and give opinion on whether to support or oppose. Will be rolled out in early 2024.
  - b. ACEC Conference
    - i. November 16 and 17
    - ii. Sold out, and no walk-ins will be permitted
    - iii. Legislative session has been moved from afternoon to morning, to be moderated by Mike Holder. Three confirmed legislators will be in attendance.
  - c. Quarterly TAB Meeting
    - i. Leadership Changes
      1. Tim McFadden is now Director Alternative Delivery Unit and Malcolm Watson is Assistant
      2. Keith Garry is now Utilities Manager

- ii. Financial status of NCDOT in their opinion is good; all \$2B in bank is committed
- iii. SB 512 – Transportation Board meeting has been postponed. Currently, 14 appointed by Legislature and 6 by Governor. Takeaway message: Board is in flux
- iv. Budget bill – Year 1 good, Year 2 very good. Bridge program received good funding. Inflation eating up a lot of funds, therefore delays expected
- v. DOT agency bill did not pass; Secretary Hopkins working to get this passed. Extra \$300M in Build NC bonds cannot be applied for because that money was already obligated in STIP
- vi. SPSF: \$250K to \$500K increase approved, selections being worked on, will be selected early 2024
- vii. NCDOT will be monitoring notification to subs by primes on a random basis; primes must document that they have notified their subs. If on-call, notify all subs, if it's a project restart and using a new contract must notify all subs. If sub was on previous on-call but not on new on-call, and there is a project restart, that original sub must be submitted to PSMU/Robert Stroup for approval
- viii. New QC/QA checklists have been developed by department; use new ones from website and submit them when making submissions
- ix. Site distance workshop to be held on November 30<sup>th</sup>; goal is 100% participation from industry with minimum of 1 person/firm who is going to prime a contract. Sign up through link sent by ACEC
- x. NCDOT reviewing prequal codes, knows there's some consistency needed, there will be new codes and some changes, ACEC will notify industry when available
- xi. Utility Coordination – finding that some utility coordinators/staff cannot read utility plans. Will be instituting policy that PEF must sign off that they can read plans. Reference was made to plan reading course; several attendees commented that plan reading course materials are outdated and hard to read
- xii. Considering setting up service accounts; being discussed internally with Transportation committee
- xiii. Agency bill – codifying PDB; bill wasn't passed therefore PDB not codified
- xiv. Two potential workgroups (Rail and Project Delivery). Rail on hold, PD is moving forward. Multi-modal subcommittee in development within ACEC
- xv. Preconstruction conference: 9/30 and 10/1/24
- xvi. ORD Migration – ongoing issue, contact NCDOT PM to see how it's impacting each individual project. Decision being made at PM level
- xvii. ProjectWise – Still going to require that projects be delivered on PW, but does not currently need to be housed on PW prior to delivery
- xviii. Secretary is committed to workforce development; NCDOT is interested to know what we are doing to recruit because NCDOT is still at a high vacancy rate
- xix. Allen Pope added that policy issues should be addressed at TAB, smaller issues addressed at subcommittee level unless it needs to be elevated
  - 1. Cash Balance is misnomer – instead, it is committed money

d. Federal Update

- i. R&D Tax Amortization Credit Repeal – Big bi-partisan issue, equal members of both party sponsoring bill, will be call to action over next few weeks to contact local Congressperson
- ii. Coordination with FHWA on IJA implementation is continuing because distribution of money is slow

4. Subcommittees

a. Alternative Delivery, Brian Banks

- i. Met on 11/7/23
- ii. NCDOT and Carolina AGC
- iii. Announcements were covered (Tim McFadden and Malcolm Watson)
- iv. ORD discipline by discipline
- v. Working with ADU to review and update AD submittal guidelines; one round of review is complete. Expecting another draft soon
- vi. PDB workgroup has been assembled by NCDOT with ACEC, AGC and NCDOT members. Purpose of group is to develop draft of PDB guidelines to be used once legislatively permitted. Hoping that will occur in Spring 2024.
- vii. Would current DB legislation cover PDB? NCDOT does not think so, would require legislative action
- viii. Inspection of Hydraulically deficient pipes – require teams to do video inspections but timeliness of inspections have been impacted by obstructions, etc. so NCDOT is considering performing inspections themselves and providing with RFP. Will move forward because no objection from industry. Firm providing inspection probably won't be precluded by DB team
- ix. There's new language in RFP for utility relocation; refer to notes from subcommittee meeting for proposed language.
- x. RFC Submittal – Things have morphed into RFC submittal being another round of comment and responses for teams but intention is for RFC to be chance for teams to go to work. Therefore, will aim to capture all comments during 100% plans and not pushing to RFC
- xi. No new projects on Anticipated DB list; NCDOT is looking to add more projects and recognizes that additional small projects would be of benefit to industry, including in 2024.
- xii. Tim McFadden asked for help in industry asking Divisions for candidates for DB
- xiii. CMGC and PDB will be added to list when those become an option; list name will change to reflect this
- xiv. Q&A process – NCDOT does not currently provide written responses to non-confidential questions. The answers are provided orally during one-on-one confidential meetings. NCDOT is open to providing written responses and will begin doing so
- xv. Considering holding joint meeting to answer joint questions in open forum setting
- xvi. Work group will be established to iron out details of Q&A process
- xvii. Timing of when cost proposal is submitted and when interviews/technical presentations occur – industry asked for some separation between two

elements so Contractor has time to prepare. Two days between will be added.

- xviii. Next meeting 3/5/24
- xix. Brian will send list of people in PDG working group

b. Project Delivery, Steve Smallwood

- i. Note that Sight Distance email came from ACEC email address; this is being held because of constructability issues in the field.
- ii. QA/QC Checklists – NCDOT does not want these to be used as cursory review; they want to see name and have it filled out and thoroughly checked, want to know who completed
- iii. Tweaking consultant evaluations; starting to add subs to evaluations. Asked if primes can see; not sure yet, will look into and report back
- iv. Distribution of information – a lot of distribution lists and there's concern on both sides that consultants are not getting proper information. Right now, no good answer. NCDOT is open to input on how to improve
- v. Invoices – Still invoices being rejected; let committee know if issues persist. If you get a rejection, resend whole invoice not only what was rejected.
- vi. Statewide On-Calls: Western in Spring, Eastern in 2025

c. Construction and Materials, Kevin O'Dell

- i. Met on October 18, 2023, met with industry on October 25, 2023
- ii. M&T advised that training schedule for certifications is going well and 2023 schedule will be mirrored for 2024
- iii. Discussed opportunities for training at community colleges
- iv. Salary Increases – Legislature passed 4% increase for technicians; made retroactive for July 1. Still figuring out how to bill retroactive amounts.
- v. Discussed summer interns within Division offices – will be negotiations based on needs and qualifications of interns
- vi. Evaluation process is in place, but it is poorly utilized. CCU is trying to revamp and get going again
- vii. Vehicle and Mileage reimbursement will be re-evaluated in December to maintain two-year timeline
- viii. Discussed on-call contracts: awarded in August, continue existing PO's until they run out of funding, in Spring of 2024 all will be transferred to new contracts. If you have to ask for additional funds, however, the new contract will be used.

d. Structures, Liz WSP

- i. Met November 6, 2023
- ii. Bridge workshops – Last two were fairly well attended; conflict with other industry events
- iii. PTI workshop on March 5, 2024
- iv. Extensive discussion on OpenX in ProjectWise; a memo on converting files from V8i is coming
- v. NC Lug session in February
- vi. 18-month timeframe to transition to OBD; 3D is not required at this time

- vii. NCDOT provided overview of upcoming opportunities; 4 new projects are being pre-screened
  - viii. QC/QA checklists must be submitted and signed
  - ix. Evaluation forms were discussed
- e. Joint Conference, Amy Faulkner
- i. Met August 8, 2023
  - ii. Evening Reception 5:30 to 7:00PM
  - iii. All plans complete and ready to go
  - iv. Note differences from last year's event:
    - 1. Check in table and breakfast buffet will open at 7AM, seating will occur in Ballroom, asking all participants to sit promptly at 8AM to allow general session to start
    - 2. PDH Credits – QR Code on nametag, scan code when entering sessions to log PDH credits. Help staff will be wearing bright orange lanyards.
    - 3. Conference App – New app being used this year, please download prior to conference for up-to-date schedule information and updates.
- f. Junior Board, Nicole Brown and Mike Davis
- i. Thanked sponsors – exceeded sponsorship goal
  - ii. This year's focus includes developing successful socials
    - 1. October 5 – Combined, over 100 attendees. Next February 1 – In all three cities, encourage members from firm to attend
    - 2. Starting new program called DP Connect. Will form groups of 2-3 people to encourage relationship building and ease comfort at ACEC events. Encourage participants to meet once per month
    - 3. PAC Event – JR Board will be involved in holiday auctions
  - iii. Lunch and Learns – Held virtually and in person, over 70 attendees both virtually and in person across three locations
  - iv. Last L&L was all virtual, allowed participants to get new requirement for ethics, over 250 participants
  - v. Mike Davis noted these are free and include a free PDH, also hope to encourage participants to become more active on Dec 16
  - vi. January 16<sup>th</sup> with Julie White – Leadership and Team Engagement; sign up will be coming out later this week or next
5. Closing Remarks – Jim Smith
- a. Last meeting as ACEC Executive Director, will be returning to engineering industry with announcement forthcoming. Has greatly enjoyed time with ACEC.
6. Open Discussion
- a. Announcement regarding Jim's replacement is forthcoming.
7. Next Meeting – February 19, 2023 at 3:00PM at NC Rural Center